

During my college days I had the opportunity to work as a broadcaster. I took the task with a great deal of thought and cautious reflection. The task at hand was not for me to promote my own understanding of the world, but to inform my audience as to the facts (as close to neutral as possible) and inspire an atmosphere of insight. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to FORCE their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is clearly the type of journalism that Al-Jazeera provides to the world.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.